Import of Coal

†310. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of coal in different industries in the country is being met through imports;

(b) if so, the names of industries and the average quantum of coal imported annually; and

(c) the reasons for which these industries are forced to depend on imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COALAND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The demand-supply gap is being met through imports.

(b) Primarily coal is being importd by Steel and Allied industries, Thermal Power Stations and cement units. The sector-wise import of coal during 2003-04 (provisional) is as under:—

(Figures in million tonnes)

Sectors		Quantity
Steel/Cokeries	Coking Coal Non-Coking	12.00
Power (Utilities)		1.42
Cement		2.50
Others		5.58
TOTAL		21.50

(c) Import of coal is under Open General Licence (OGL) of the import policy of the Government and consumers are free to import coal as per their requirement. Imports are being resorted to bridge partly the gap between demand and supply and for blending to improve the quality of coal.

SU-30 MKI Aircraft

†311. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have procured Sukhoi-30 MKI planes from Russia recently;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of fighter aircrafts in operation in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government concluded a Contract during 1996 with Rosvoorouzhenie, a Russian enterprise, for the procurement of 8 Sukhoi-30 K and 32 Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft. These aircrafts are being delivered in batches. 12 Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft have been received during October-December, 2003.

(c) It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose the information.

Purchase of AK 47 Assault Rifles

312. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently purchased A.K. 47 Assault rifles from a Bulgarian firm by overlooking the tender offer which was 25 per cent cheaper.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the specific reasons for ignoring the cheapest offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Joint Patrolling in the High Seas with foreign Countries

313. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed joint patrolling of high seas with Singapore, Australia, Thailand and Philippines to check piracy, narco trafficking, smuggling etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how India stands to gain by this move?